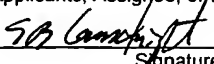


Certificate of Mailing	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 25, 2004	
Michael H. Baniak / Steven B. Courtright	
Name of Applicants, Assignee, or Registered Representative	
	
Signature	
March 25, 2004	
Date of Signature	

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl No. : 10/600,078  
Applicant(s) : Larry D. ANNIS et al.  
Filed : June 20, 2003  
TC/A.U. : 3761  
Examiner : Unassigned  
Docket No. : 1801/88  
Title : CONNECTOR DEVICE

Confirmation No. 6850

### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97-1.98, Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Applicants request that these documents be reviewed, considered and made of record.

(X) Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e):

(X) The enclosed references were cited in a Communication-International Search Report issued by the United States Patent Office-PCT Receiving Office (copy enclosed). Applicants hereby certify that each item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart

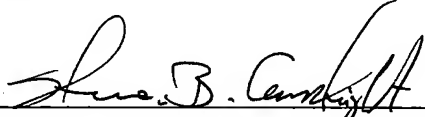
foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

(X) Applicants hereby certify that no item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing below after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

March 25, 2004

BANIAK PINE & GANNON  
150 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 1200  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
(312) 673-0360  
Fax (312) 673-0361

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael H. Baniak, Reg. No. 30,608  
Steven B. Courtright, Reg. No. 40,966  
Attorney / Agent for Applicants



<b>FORM PTO-1449</b> <b>LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR</b> <b>APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b> <b>STATEMENT</b>  Sheet 1 of 1	<b>SERIAL NO.</b> 10/600,078	<b>CASE NO.</b> 1801/88
	<b>FILING DATE</b> June 20, 2003	<b>GROUP ART UNIT</b> 3761
	<b>APPLICANT(S):</b> Larry D. ANNIS et al.	

REFERENCE DESIGNATION		U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS				
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	A1	5,954,690	Sep. 21, 1999	Larsson	604/74	
	A2	5,797,875	Aug. 25, 1998	Silver	604/74	
	A3	5,601,531	Feb. 11, 1997	Silver	604/74	
	A4	5,007,899	Apr. 16, 1991	Larsson	604/74	
	A5	4,759,747	Jul. 26, 1988	Aida et al.	604/74	
	A6					
	A7					
	A8					
	A9					
	A10					
	A11					
	A12					
	A13					
	A14					
	A15					
	A16					
	A17					
	A18					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
	A19						
	A20						
	A21						
	A22						
	A23						

EXAMINER INITIAL	OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)	
	A24	
	A25	
	A26	
	A27	
	A28	

<b>EXAMINER</b>	<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.